

**XLIII****Bill No. LXXI of 2025**

*A Bill further to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Act, 2025.  
(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Short title and  
commencement.

Amendment  
of section 16.

2. In the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 16, in sub-section (2), after clause (c), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:—

34 of 2006

“(ca) the procedure for regulation, grant and monitoring of certifications relating to religious, ethical, or faith-based dietary practices, including Halal certification, exclusively through Government-notified authorities or agencies under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;”.

Insertion of  
new sections  
43A to 43C.  
Regulation of  
Halal  
Certification

3. After section 43 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely—

“**43A.** (1) No private organization, trust, society, or association shall issue, collect fees for, or act as an intermediary in the process of Halal certification of any food item.

(2) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, designate such authority or agency under its control for the purpose of granting, supervising, renewing and revoking Halal certification for food items.

(3) All fees or charges payable for the issuance, renewal or testing of Halal certification shall be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.

(4) Halal certification shall apply only to food products intended for human consumption, and shall not extend to non-edible goods, services, industrial products or machinery.

(5) Any person or entity contravening the provisions of this section shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees, or with both.

(6) The Central Government may, by rules made under this Act, prescribe the procedure, forms, validity, and audit mechanism for halal certifications under this section.

**43B.** (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Committee to be called the Committee on Certification of Religious Dietary Food Items consisting of the following members, namely, —

(a) Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Chairperson *ex-officio*;

(b) one representative each from the Union Ministries of Food Processing Industries; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minority Affairs, to be nominated by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed – Members *ex-officio*;

(c) two experts, one each in the field of food safety and public health, to be appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed – Members; and

(d) two representatives from State Food Safety Authorities, to be nominated by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government concerned, in such manner as may be prescribed – Members *ex-officio*.

(2) The Committee shall be administered by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which shall provide necessary secretarial assistance and bear the expenditure from its existing budget grant for the functioning of the Committee.

(3) The Chairman and Members of the Committee other than *ex-officio* Members shall hold office for such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government by rules made under this Act.

Committee on  
Certification  
of Religious  
Dietary Food  
Items.

(4) The salary and/or allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and Members other than *ex-officio* Members shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government by rules made under this Act.

**43C.** The Committee shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely —

Functions of  
the  
Committee.

(a) identify and notify classes of food items that may require religious dietary certification under this Act or by rules made thereunder;

(b) recommend uniform national standards and procedures for such certification;

(c) advise the Central Government on criteria for slaughter, processing, packaging, and labelling consistent with public health and religious dietary considerations;

(d) review and update standards periodically;

(e) monitor and report on the implementation and misuse of religious dietary certifications; and

(f) perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Central Government, from time to time.

*Explanation.* — For the purposes of this section “religious dietary certification” means any form of certification, labelling, or declaration that a food item, ingredient, or process conforms to any religious dietary requirement, including but not limited to Halal, Kosher, Jhatka, or any equivalent term, whether expressed in writing, mark, symbol, or otherwise.”

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

At present, there is no statutory authority or law that regulates and standardizes halal certification for domestic consumption. Halal certification is voluntary and market-driven for domestic products and private entities conduct and charge for such certifications without statutory accountability.

The purpose of this Bill is to ensure transparency, standardization, and governmental oversight in religious dietary certifications, including Halal certification.

This Amendment Bill to the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 seeks to—

1. Vest exclusive authority for Halal and similar certifications in Government agencies;
2. Establish a Committee on Certification of Religious Dietary Food Items to identify and regulate items requiring such certification;
3. Ensure that all fees are paid only to the Government; and
4. Restrict certification strictly to food items to prevent misuse in non-food sectors.

This will promote consumer confidence, uphold public accountability, and strengthen the integrity of India's food regulation system.

Hence, this Bill.

MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI.